We claim:

      1.   In a device including plural applications requesting remote resources, a method of managing overlapping connection sessions created to support access to remote resources by said plural applications, the method comprising:

5   receiving a connection request comprising a process identification and saving the process identification in a data structure;

      establishing a connection upon receiving a connection request when no connection exists;

      receiving a disconnection request comprising a process identification and

10   removing the disconnecting process identification from the data structure; and

      terminating the connection upon receiving a disconnection request when no process identifications remain in the data structure after removing the disconnecting process identification.

      2.   The device of claim 1 further comprising:

15   saving a time that a connection request was received;

      after a threshold period after the time, removing a process identification from the data structure if a process associated with the process identification has terminated; and

      terminating the connection when no process identifications remain in the data

20   structure after removing the identification of the terminated process.

      3.   The device of claim 1 wherein the device is a computer and the connection is a dial-up connection.

      4.   The device of claim 1 wherein the device is a wireless device and the connection is a wireless connection.

5.   The device of claim 4 wherein the wireless device is a telephone.

6.   The device of claim 5 wherein the wireless device is a hand held computer.

7.   A computerized method comprising:

5   receiving a request for a connection to a remote resource;

saving in a data structure, an identifier of the request for a connection;

upon receiving a request for connection, creating the connection when the connection is not already established;

receiving a request for a disconnection from a remote resource;

10   deleting from the data structure, an identifier of the request for the disconnection;

disconnecting the connection upon a disconnection request when the deleted identifier is the last identifier of a request for a connection in the data structure.

8.   The method of claim 7 further comprising:

15   removing an identifier of a request for a connection from the data structure after a period of time after the request is made if a process associated with the identifier has terminated.

9.   The method of claim 7 wherein a request for a connection originates from an application and the remote resource is a web server.

20   10.   The method of claim 9 wherein the connection is a dial-up connection between a modem and an Internet service provider.

11.   The method of claim 7 wherein the method is running on a wireless device with plural applications sending the connection requests and communicating with remote resources over the connection.

12.   A computer system comprising:

5   a processor coupled to memory and a hardware device for communicating with remote resources;

software in memory and comprising:

an operating service for receiving system service requests via an application services interface;

10   plural applications requesting remote services from the operating service via the application services interface;

a connection manager for establishing via the hardware device a connection shared by plural applications communicating with remote resources over the connection and for maintaining the connection when an application requests a

15   disconnection while another application is still using the connection.

13.   The system of claim 12 wherein the connection manager disconnects the connection when a last application using the connection calls disconnect.

14.   The system of claim 12 wherein the connection manager maintains a list of applications that have requested the connection.

20   15.   The system of claim 14 wherein the connection manager disconnects the connection when an application requests a disconnect and no other application is on the list.

16.   The computer system of claim 12 wherein the system is a personal computer.

17.   The computer system of claim 12 wherein the connection is wireless.

18.   A computer-readable medium comprising executable instructions for

5   performing a method comprising:

creating a connection when a process request communicating with remote resources requiring the connection;

storing identifiers of processes requesting communicating with remote resources via the connection;

10   removing an identifier of a process from the stored identifiers when the process requests a disconnection;   ·

maintaining the connection when a process requests a disconnection when stored identifiers indicate another process is communicating with remote resources via the connection; and

15   disconnecting the connection when a process requests a disconnection when stored identifiers indicate no other process is communicating with remote resources via the connection.

19.   The computer-readable medium of claim 18 further comprising executable instructions for removing an identifier of a process from the stored

20   identifiers when the process has terminated.

20.   The computer-readable medium of claim 18 further comprising executable instructions for periodically removing identifiers of processes from the stored identifiers when the processes have terminated without requesting a disconnect.